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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/750,819	12/28/2000	Sheng-Tsai Chang	JCLA6047	9300

7590 02/22/2002
J.C. Patents, Inc.
4 Venture
Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618

EXAMINER

JEAN PIERRE, PEGUY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2819

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/750,819

Applicant(s)

CHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Peguy JeanPierre

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because the "summary of the invention" is essentially a verbatim repetition of the claims. There is no need to repeat that which can be found elsewhere in its entirety. The purpose of the brief summary of the invention is to apprise the public, and more especially those interested in the art to which the invention relates, of the nature of the invention; see MPEP 608.01(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 5, the term "... to converter the (n-m) bits of the PCM signal" is not clear. This term does not state in a clear and exact manner whether the lsb (m) or the msb (n-m) is subject to conversion. "N" seems to represent the total number of bits, (n-m) the most significant bit;

in line 7, the term " $n > m$," is not defined and incomplete;

in line 10, it is not clear whether m_1 and m_2 are related to the lsb because m_1 and m_2 are not defined or their sum ($m_1 + m_2$) is equal to "n" or "m", please clarify;

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in line 19 the term " the output driver the first and the second output driver devices" is not clear.

An art rejection of the claims as understood by the Examiner appears below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (Fig. 1) in view of Chester (USP 6,014,055).

The admitted prior art (APA) discloses in Figure 1 the conversion of a multilevel pulse width modulation digital to analog converter that comprises a PCM converter circuit (10) that receives a PCM signal and whose outputs (12, 14) are connected to output drivers

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(16, 18), an output device that receives as inputs the outputs of the output drivers. The APA fails to teach a control device that selects and disables the output drivers in response to the control signal of the least significant bit signal of the PCM signal. Chester discloses in Figure a method for converting PCM signal to PWM signal that comprises an LSB processor that alters (selects and disables) the PCM signal based upon the least significant bit signals to define a PWM output control signal to provide a high resolution PWM signal (see abstract; col. 2, lines 42-59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate in the prior art system the control technique as taught by Chester to timely sample and generate a PWM signal.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peguy JeanPierre whose telephone number is (703) 308-1968 and fax number is (703) 746-4034. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956. The Group fax number is (703) 308-7722.


PEGUY JEANPIERRE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

December 12, 2001

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

09/750,819

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
CHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Peguy JeanPierre

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2819

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name /	Classification
	A	US-6014055	01-2000	Chester	330/10
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.